



## SOAR Committee Report November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The SOAR Committee is currently keeping an eye on three important issues. Two of these issues are ongoing, and one is an opportunity for the Academic Senate to exercise its leadership role. The first two are:

- **Sensitivity Training.** This general topic covers a wide range of concerns, and has come up in the senate several times in different circumstances related to diversity and inclusion at LCC. With regard to specific plans for sensitivity training, Chief Diversity Officer Tonya Bailey, who is a member of SOAR, is preparing activities for the upcoming professional activity days. The SOAR Committee plans to monitor those activities, and as appropriate advise the senate on how we might continue the conversation afterward.
- **Student/Faculty Commitments and Expectations.** This topic has been discussed by the senate under each of the two past senate presidents. The SOAR Committee feels that it is time to finalize the results of those discussions and present to the senate a document that can be approved and sent forward. We had an interesting discussion about how these commitments/expectations might be physically advertised across our campuses, in addition to possibly becoming part of the new-student orientation.

The third item pertains to the accreditation of LCC by the Higher Learning Commission. We recently learned that our systems portfolio was fully endorsed, and LCC met all of the accreditation criteria. This is not to say, however, that there are not areas for improvement.

- **Accreditation.** A number of key criteria for accreditation fall squarely within the domain of the Academic Senate. Of particular note, the activities of the Curriculum Committee and the Committee for Assessing Student Learning directly address essential HLC criteria and the expectation that faculty are responsible for the curriculum. Co-Chair Kelland and our Accreditation Liaison Officer Tracy Labadie, who is a resource member of SOAR, were instrumental in writing the systems portfolio and are currently preparing a plan for addressing the identified areas of improvement. To the extent that any areas for improvement involve academic processes, we will bring them to the senate for a discussion on how we can improve those processes in anticipation of the assurance argument and site visit that will be necessary for our next accreditation affirmation.

Respectfully submitted on 5 November 2019,

By Mark Kelland, Ph.D., Co-Chair of the SOAR Committee,  
Past President of the Academic Senate